

OSWR

Science and Weapons Daily Review

AFGHANISTAN/USSR: SOVIET USE OF LETHAL CHEMICALS [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] reported that the Soviets used lethal chemical weapons against the Mujahedin in 1980, near Herat and Jalalabad, in 1982 near Karez, and in mid-1983 and early 1984 in Ghazni Province. [REDACTED] also reported that the nerve agent tabun was used, and that the Soviets had stocks of the nerve agents sarin and soman, as well as mustard, lewisite, and possibly phosgene and diphosgene in Afghanistan. [REDACTED]

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Comment:

The information on CW attacks in mid-1983 and early 1984 is the first credible reporting to indicate that the Soviets have used chemicals more recently than February 1983. We previously reported that there was a significant lull in CW activities during 1983, compared to the 1980-82 period. The presence of the nerve agents indicates that the Soviets may again be resorting to greater use of chemical weapons. [REDACTED]

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The stocks of CW agents in Afghanistan indicate that the Soviets intend to continue using chemical weapons in tactical situations. The information [REDACTED] on stocks of chemicals supports previous intelligence indicating that Soviet chemical weapons and agents were stockpiled at six different locations in Afghanistan. [REDACTED]

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